Relief and rehabilitation for the victims of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir

*468. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the victims of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir and displaced people of border areas are covered by relief and rehabilitation schemes of his Ministry;

(b) if so, what has been done by Government for their relief and rehabilitation; and

(c) whether Government have any plans to set-up orphanages aid and special treatment centres for innumerable orphaned, widowed and maimed victims of the proxy war?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Relief is a State subject and the Government of J&K has been providing *ex-gratia* relief to the victims of militancy for death, injury, etc. As per the existing rules of the State Government, Rs. 1 lakh is paid to the next-of-kin in case of death, Rs. 75,000/-, Rs. 5000/- and Rs. 1,000/- for permanent disability, grievous injury and minor injury respectively caused in a terrorist incident. Also 50% of the loss of immovable property subject to a ceiling of Rs. 2 lakhs, is paid as compensation to the person whose property is damaged. The expenditure incurred by the State Government in this regard is reimbursed by this Ministry under Security Related Expenditure. A sum of Rs. 265.30 crores has been reimbursed to the State Government till the end of January 2001 against payment of *ex-gratia* relief to the next-of-kin of those killed as well as to those injured and compensation for damage/loss of property during the period of militancy in the State since 1990.

With the objective of providing assistance for psychological and economic rehabilitation of the victims of militancy, the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir had set up a Council in 1995 for rehabilitation of widows, orphans, handicapped and old-aged persons adversely affected by militancy. It also aims at better coverage of

beneficiaries under various on-going welfare and development schemes of the Government. As a registered body under the Societies Registration Act, it functions as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). The Council has a corpus fund of Rs. 20 crores against which a sum of Rs. 6 crores has been contributed by the Central Government. In view of the magnitude of the tasks involved, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been requested to engage some NGOs in the rehabilitation of children orphaned by militancy particularly in the Kashmir Valley.

For persons displaced for border areas, a relief package consisting of free ration, clothing, temporary accommodation, free medical check-up and financial assistance for replacement of destroyed houses and livestock was approved by Ministry of Home Affairs and was announced by the State Government in July 1999. It was revised in August 1999. Initially, the relief package was announced for period of 10 months from August 1999 to May 2000. Later, the relief was extended till 31st March 2001. The total expenditure envisaged was Rs. 58.21 crores against which Rs. 57.80 crores stands released (Rs. 37.80 crores from NDF and Rs. 20 crores from SRE).

While all the displaced persons have returned to their homes, about 11044 families from the border villages of Khour and Akhnoor tehsils of Jammu Division have not been able to return to their homes as shelling was continuing in these border villages. Since shelling has stopped as a result of the Government of India peace initiative, the State Government has been requested to persuade the migrants to return to their homes.

Safety equipments to miners

*471. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that miners do not get the necessary safety equipments to face disasters; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to equip the miners with all safety equipments?